

II. Rstriction Requirement

In the Office Action dated November 20, 2002, the Examiner has required a restriction between the following groups of claims:

- Group I** Claims 1 and 2, drawn to a method of plasma polymerization coating of silica to produce surface modified silica, classified in class 427, subclass 488.
- Group II** Claim 1, drawn to a device for the plasma polymerization coating of silica, classified in class 428, subclass 411.1.
- Group III** Claim 1, drawn to epoxy molding compound (EMC) comprising the silica of claim 1, classified in class 428, subclass 411.1.

The restriction requirement, as set forth above and on pages 2-3 of the Office Action, is respectfully traversed. However, in order to be fully responsive to the restriction requirement, Applicants elect, with traverse, the subject matter of Group I, Claims 1 and 2.

Applicants refer the Examiner to M.P.E.P. § 803, which sets forth the criteria and guidelines for Examiners to follow in making proper requirements for restriction. The M.P.E.P. instructs Examiners as follows:

If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Office **must** examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.

M.P.E.P. § 803 (emphasis added).

Here, the Examiner has not shown that examining the above groups together would constitute a serious burden. In fact, according to the present Office Action, at Groups II and III are classified in the identical class and subclass (428/411.1), while Group I is classified in the corresponding method class and subclass (427/488) for class 428 articles. Accordingly, a search for these groups of claims will substantially, if not

completely, overlap. Thus, for at least this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that the restriction requirement is in error and request that the requirement be withdrawn.

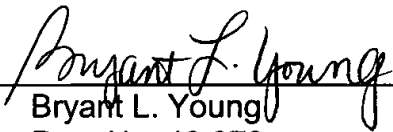
If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would be useful in resolving any outstanding issues, he is invited to call the undersigned at (202) 408-4328.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: December 20, 2002

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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE,
PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(C)(1)(II)

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. [Surface modified] A method of surface modifying silica for epoxy molding compound (EMC) comprising [by plasma polymerization coating with one of the following monomers]:

coating the surface of said silica by plasma polymerization coating with a monomer selected from 1,3-diaminopropane, allylamine, pyrrole 1,2-epoxy-5-hexene, allylmercaptan, and allyl alcohol.

2. A method of surface modifying silica by plasma polymerization coating [of silica] comprising the steps of:

1) charging [of] said silica [with average diameter of 25-35 μm] into a plasma polymerization reactor [1], followed by vacuuming to 1×10^{-3} torr;

2) introducing a monomer [1,3-diaminopropane, allylamine, pyrrole 1,2-epoxy-5-hexene, allylmercaptan or allyl alcohol] into [the] said reactor via steel pipe; and

3) rotating [the] said reactor from 1 to 50 rpm, with the conditions of having a plasma power of 10 to 40 W, a gas pressure of 40 to 50 mtorr, and a treatment time of 20 to 40 seconds; [at 1-50 rpm at plasma polymerization conditions: plasma power (10-40 W), gas pressure (40-50 mtorr) and treatment time (20-40 seconds).]

wherein said silica has an average diameter of 25-35 μm ; and

furth r wherein said monomer is selected from 1,3-diaminopropane,
allylamine, pyrrole 1,2-epoxy-5-hexene, allylm r captan, and allyl alcohol.

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